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E. O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALIAN INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI WILL SOON PROPOSE TO SECRETARY ROGERS A NEW PLAN TO DISABUSE EGYPT OF ITS FEELING OF ISOLATION FROM THE WEST AND PROMOTE AN INTERIM CANAL SETTLEMENT. INTERESTED WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ARE CALLED UPON TO ORGANIZE A FUND OF FIVE BILLION DOLLARS FOR INVESTMENT IN EGYPT, PRIMARILY FOR REBUILDING THE CANAL AREA. MEDICI HAS REVEALED HIS PLAN TO MRS. MEIR, WHOSE REACTION, WHILE NOT NEGATIVE, WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 2732, TEL AVIV 2744, 4/6 (EXDIS).

2. ISRAEL FACES A TOUGH INTERNAL ISSUE

ON APRIL 8, THE ISRAELI CABINET WILL DEBATE LIBERALI-
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ZATION OF LAND ACQUISITION POLICIES IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK. MRS. MEIR REMAINS OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGE, BUT SHE IS UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE FROM MOSHE DAYAN AND HIS SUPPORTERS TO OPEN THE AREA TO LARGE- SCALE ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, WAS INFORMED OF OUR CONCERN THAT LIBERALIZATION WOULD CREATE A SITUATION OF DE FACTO PERMANENT OCCUPATION. (SECRET) STATE 64462, TEL AVIV 2768, TEL AVIV 2770, 4/6 (EXDIS).

3. A CRISIS BREWS IN LIBYA?

THE FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR IN TRIPOLI HAS CONFIDED TO OUR EMBASSY THAT SEVERAL PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER JALLUD AD FOREIGN MINISTER KIKHYA, HAVE RESIGNED. IF TRUE, A KEY ELEMENT OF LIBYAN POLITICAL STABILITY HAS BEEN SHATTERED. EMBASSY TRIPOLI IS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORT. (CONFIDENTIAL) TRIPOLI 436, 4/6.

4. THE ICCS: ROLE- REVERSAL

IN A " NON- POLEMICAL" DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, THE ICCS POLISH DELEGATION (POLDEL) ACCUSED THE CANADIANS OF BEING THE REAL OBSTRUCTIONISTS IN VIETNAM. AS EVIDENCE OF SINCERITY, THE POLDEL WILL DISCUSS THE MOST FLAGRANT CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS WITH THE PRG AT AN UPCOMING MEETING. EMBASSY SAIGON BELIEVES THE POLES WILL AVOID " CONSPICUOUS OBSTRUCTIONSIM" IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. (SECRET) SIAGON 5817, 4/6 (EXDIS).

5. A NEW GOVERNMENT TEAM IN FRANCE

THREE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS EMERGE FROM A FIRST LOOK AT THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW FRENCH CABINET; (1) ALL ITS MEMBERS ARE PERSONALLY LOYAL TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU; (2) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CABINET PLANS NEW DEPARTURES IN FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES; (3) THE CABINET DOES NOT REFLECT POMPIDOU' S FREQUENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED COMMITMENT FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 9776, 4/6. ROGERS

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